



VOL. 51 / MARCH 2016

State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas

INFO FIRE

MAGAZINE



2016 CONFERENCE EDITION

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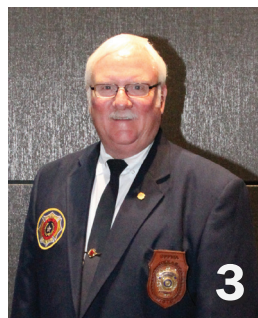


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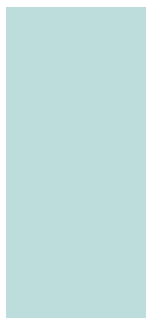


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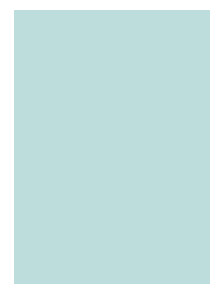
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2016 CONFERENCE EDITION

2015 - 2016 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Front row (left to right): Paul Hamilton (President), Henry Perry (1st VP), Harvie Cheshire (2nd VP), Mike Richardson (3rd VP), Tim Smith (4th VP), Rusty Kattner (Immediate Past President). Back row (left to right): Rayford Gibson (Board Appointed Parliamentarian), Chris Barron (Executive Director), Jim White (Assistant Secretary), Joe Ondrasek (Secretary), Ben Kennedy (Chaplain) and Macey Kennon (Mascot).



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

As time marches on and we enter another year, we are reminded of the goals and tasks of the association for the coming year and many projects we have planned for the year. Our big priority set

out for this spring is the development and implementation of the certification module's class entry page. This will be a major project for our software programmers because of the involvement of multiple objectives, personnel, etc. We anticipate this project will be a major and much needed improvement to our system that will allow the convenience and efficiency of entering training records for your fire department's personnel.

Our association's investment in technology is something that does not come quick or cheap. We have yet to find a software company that has software which is specifically tailored to the fire association business. We do have a software, though, that allows for an integrated website, membership database, store, email services, etc.; however, we do have to have to work with the programmers to do some custom work on the software, which allows for us to have features specific to our type of association membership.

Along with the rollout of the next certification module, we have been able to do some other things to the software which allows for us to better serve you. Recently, we implemented a new responsive website that should automatically adapt to whatever device you pull our website on - phone, tablet, computer, etc.. This will allow for our users to have a better experience on our site.

Another project we see upon the horizon in 2016 includes addressing the recommendations from the Chemical Safety Board on the training/awareness of a fertilizer-grade ammonium nitrate facility and the hazards these places pose to first responders. Our certification, executive, and industrial boards will be working on this project together and will hopefully come up with a recommendation that is feasible for the Texas fire service. Some other projects include some technology improvements to our server to allow our staff to work in our database without encountering errors, the inaugural Fire Chief Development Program, the annual conference in McAllen, and the Firefighter Legislative Day in College Station, to name a few.

At the end of February we kicked off the first of four classes of the SFFMA Fire Chief Development Program. This program is aimed to help newly elected chiefs or chiefs wanting to improve their knowledge and skills on issues which could affect them in their tenures. Thanks to the sponsorship of Texas Mutual Insurance Company and VFIS of Texas for making this much needed program available to 30 chiefs in Texas. We hope that this year's class is successful and we can continue the program in the coming years! This course is four weekends long and will cover various topics including administration, laws affecting the fire service, leadership, strategic planning, budgets, grants, policies, etc.

As we continue to improve the services, membership benefits and products we carry or promote, we always welcome your feedback or experience with anything we have to offer. Thank you for your commitment to the fire service of Texas.


Chief Chris Barron
Executive Director



PRESIDENT'S FORUM

Hello to the greatest fire & EMS family in the entire world. My time on your SFFMA board is on the downhill slide. I can't believe my presidential year is quickly coming to an end. It seems like it was only a few months ago that Jeri, Lauren and I were traveling the great state of TEXAS running for SFFMA 4th Vice President. I would like to thank each of you for all the support I have received.

I have been very lucky to have been a member of your SFFMA Executive Board for 5 years. We have all worked very hard for each of you, and have accomplished a ton of goals, and will continue to do so in the future. None of which could have been accomplished without Chris Barron and all the office staff. We could not ask for better and more committed people. I would like to thank each of you for your commitment to the SFFMA.

The planning conference in McAllen was a huge success. All committees are working very hard for you. The McAllen Fire Department and all of the Rio Grande Valley FFMA showed us a great time, and we are looking forward to returning in June for the 140th conference and convention. Myself and the SFFMA Board were very honored to be able to meet and visit with International members that were attending

fire training during our time there. We were present when they were given their certificates, which seemed to please them very much. They are very honored to be members of the SFFMA.

The spring district meetings are just around the corner. It is the intention of the Executive Board to have at least one member at each meeting. Some weekends there are as many as four districts meeting the same weekend and hundreds of miles apart. We will do our best to attend as many as possible. Texas is a huge state, and we are watching our travel budget very closely.

TFA President Jerri Locknane, myself, and the Rio Grande Valley FFMA would like to invite each of you to attend your 140th SFFMA Conference and Convention in McAllen Texas. Everything your department or association could be looking for or need will be available to you. The SFFMA vendors and partners have always brought the best showcase to our conventions. We would not be able to have the greatest conference in the state without them.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you very soon. Please be safe. Once again, thank you for allowing me to be your president of the greatest association in the world.

Paul Hamilton
SFFMA President

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e-INFO

**HAS YOUR EMAIL
ADDRESS CHANGED
AND YOU NO
LONGER RECEIVE
OUR EMAILS?**

**EMAIL
NEWSLETTER@SFFMA.ORG**

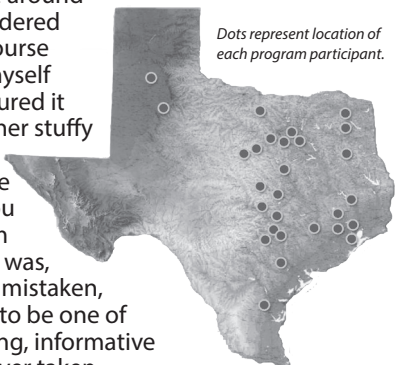


LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

by Rick Stevens, Fire Chief
Punkin-Evergreen Fire Department

Over the last 17 years of my career, I have spent numerous hours in leadership courses, certification courses and most recently I finished my Bachelors degree in business. Holding management positions in the public safety field has allowed me to be presented with many challenging obstacles and management nightmares. However, it didn't prepare me for taking over the role of a volunteer fire chief. As many previous and current chiefs may be able to say, it is a challenge taking over from another leadership's ways and designing a new base to run a department smoothly. Some may have to re-vamp everything from logistics, to operation and all the way to finance. When I came into my position I felt overwhelmed and some days still do, trying to juggle running a department, applying for grants, dealing with personnel issues and retention, while still managing a family life.

This being said, I had the pleasure and honor of being invited to go this last weekend to the first SFFMA Fire Chief's Development Program. When the information originally came around by email, I wondered what type of course I was signing myself up to take. I figured it would be another stuffy formal class that would bore you. Most of you know what I am talking about. I was, however, sadly mistaken, and found this to be one of the most exciting, informative classes I have ever taken.



Dots represent location of each program participant.

continued on page 25

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Hello from Membership!

Membership processing is slowly but surely catching up. We are currently working on processing the second week of January. As a reminder; please be sure to include your updated invoice, indicating any removals or additions. Additions must include first and last name, last 4 of their SSN, and birthdate. Also be sure to include the indicated amount on your invoice (plus \$30/per **new** member, and -\$30/per member **removed**). Processing will go a lot quicker if you have a clearly stated roster and payment. All chiefs and coordinators have access to your department roster to make any changes and generate an updated invoice at www.sffmaonline.org, by logging in with your personal ID # and password.

On the other side of membership, an update on our membership card printer. We have currently been experiencing technical issues with our printer. We tried troubleshooting many times, resulting in ultimately having to ship the machine back to the manufacturer for repairs, in Chicago. We are continuing to process dues; however the printing and distribution of membership cards is delayed. We have not been given a tentative time of when we will get the machine back but are hoping it won't be more than a few weeks. During the interim, we are working on a letter-type form to indicate which members have been paid for the current membership year, along with their certifications listed. Once we receive the printer back we will jump right into printing processed departments and mailing out cards.

Membership benefits; if you have any suggestions on membership benefits you would be interested in seeing if we could get added to our benefits list, please email your suggestions to membership@sffma.org.

We appreciate your membership and continued participation in the association! If you have any questions regarding membership please email me at mgarza@sffma.org.

Take care!

Mari Garza Membership Coordinator
State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association

SFFMA INTERNATIONAL



As the newest SFFMA staff member, I have to say my time here so far has been nothing short of wonderful. Last month we had our annual International Conference in McAllen and it was a great success. We had 45 members join us for two days of training. With the help of McAllen FD and TEEX, we were able to offer Rope Rescue and Forcible Entry courses. These international

members came from Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, and Panama to learn new skills and techniques to help them in their work in their respective countries. We had a really good time in McAllen and I'm hoping that next year we will be able to offer more variety in our courses and have even more international members join us.

Our next endeavor is creating a digital newsletter for our international members in which we keep them updated on firefighter related news and articles. The International Committee is working

on rolling out our first edition in the second week of May, and have two more before the end of the year.

I'm looking forward to working with all these wonderful people who have made me feel so welcomed. Please feel free to send me your comments, questions, and concerns regarding our International Program.

Thank you,
Adriana Rodriguez

VERNON "BLONDY" RUCKER MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

**MONDAY
June 27, 2016
10 A.M.**

Palm View Golf Course
2701 South Ware Rd.
McAllen, TX 78503

**REGISTRATION FEE:
\$75 per person**

Registration form is available
online
at www.sffma.org.

Annual Memorial Service June 26, 2016 - 10:30 A.M.

In order to acknowledge firefighters and first responders who have perished in the past year, please provide the SFFMA office with the following:

- Name
- Fire/EMS department
- Date of death
- Did death occur in the line of duty?

Email information to memorial@sffma.org,
no later than May 20, 2016.



IN MEMORIAM

Atascocita VFD Jason Michael Anderson	August 23, 2015
Bellmead FD Steve Patrick	December 29, 2015
Ennis VFD Michael Curtis Tekell	January 16, 2016
Gainesville Fire-Rescue Lt. Doug Anderle	January 30, 2016
Joaquin VFD Elmer Mathews Mike Wood	December 25, 2015 December 17, 2015
Klondike VFD Jerry Wood	November 6, 2015
Mansfield FD/Sergeant-at-Arms Terry Cox	January 28, 2016
Portland FD Fire Chief James "Corkey" Tedder	October 3, 2015
Punkin Center FD Maxie Collins, Sr.	October 3, 2014
TEEX Guest Instructor Raye Downs	December 28, 2015
Texas Firemen's Auxiliary 1968 Past President Billie Terry	October 5, 2015

MDA® For Strength,
Independence & Life

Thank you

to all Texas firefighters for supporting MDA and filling your boots on behalf of individuals – and the people who love them – struggling daily with the effects of muscle-debilitating diseases in your community.

The freedom to walk, to talk, to run and play, as well as the freedom to laugh, to hug, to eat, and to breathe are taken away from kids and adults with muscular dystrophy, ALS and related diseases that weaken muscle strength and severely limit mobility.

Together with supporters like firefighters, MDA is fighting to make today free from the harm of muscle diseases, tomorrow free from the diseases themselves, and give people the opportunity to live unlimited.

Texas firefighters help MDA:

- ☐ Fund research breakthroughs which accelerate treatments and cures.
- ☐ Care for kids and adults from day one.
- ☐ Empower families with services and support in hometowns across Texas

None of this is possible without firefighters who work so diligently on behalf of MDA and your community. **You are our heroes.**

2016 ANNUAL AWARDS FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Nominee's department MUST be a member of the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

Nominee MUST hold current individual membership with SFFMA.

Each nominee will be considered on a point system to determine the three finalists. The areas to be considered are:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) Leadership abilities, including
-Leadership positions held
-Work knowledge
-Communications
-Creativity and innovation
-Attitude
-Interaction with others | 3) Involvement in SFFMA, both state and district level
4) Community involvement, both church and civic
5) Heroism in a fire-related act or act of bravery
6) Accomplishments/awards received
7) Certifications held
8) Letters of recommendation (no more than four please) |
| 2) Dedication to training and/or introduction of new and innovative training methods | 9) Pictures may be submitted (no more than four please) |

All nominations must be submitted to local districts by a fire department on or before the district's spring meeting. Submissions must be received with a letter from the fire department and signed by either the fire chief, assistant chief or president.

One nominee from each district should be submitted in a sealed envelope to the state SFFMA office no later than the fourth Monday in May. Submissions must be received with a letter from the district and must be signed by the district president or secretary.

The SFFMA office will log the submissions as received and leave them unopened. The FFOY committee will meet during the last week of May to open the submissions and to select the three finalists based on the above-noted criteria. The nominees will be notified of the results. The three finalists will be interviewed by the FFOY committee on Saturday morning at the state convention. All nominees will be recognized and the winner will be announced on Sunday at the opening business session. All submissions will be returned to the districts after the state convention.

EMS RESPONDER OF THE YEAR

Nominee's department or agency must be a current active member of the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

Nominees must hold current individual membership in the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

A nominee could be considered because of past heroism in an EMS-related act, act of bravery, dedication to training, or introduction of new and innovative training methods. Leadership abilities to be considered are:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Work knowledge | 4) Innovation |
| 2) Communications | 5) Attitude |
| 3) Creative ability | 6) Interaction with others |

Community involvement will be considered, either church or civic.

A nominee could be considered for the committees he or she may have chaired or served upon, and how these committees functioned under his or her guidance.

Nominees will be considered on a point system, giving points for their contributions in the above-noted areas.

There will be a personal interview conducted with the three finalists. To win the state award as EMS Responder of the Year, nominees do not have to be an agency officer or chief.

All nominations for EMS Responder of the Year must be submitted to a local district association on department or agency letterhead, and signed by the department or agency chief officer or executive, assistant chief, or president.

The district offices will direct submissions of district nominations to the SFFMA office. Submissions of nominees must be on district letterhead and/or signed by the president or secretary of the district. One nomination from each district president/secretary shall be submitted to the SFFMA office via fax, email or postal mail by the fourth Monday in May.

Copies of certificates and pictures may be included (but no more than four of each).

**ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
MAY 23, 2016.**



CERTIFICATION UPDATES

Master Firefighter Application

Since this update will significantly ease the application process, we want to be sure everyone is aware of it. During their October teleconference, the Certification Board approved acceptance of a TCFP Master Firefighter certificate in place of submission of course completion certificates. All other prerequisites, including full Firefighter II and years of service, remain unchanged.

Certification Applications

There has been some understandable confusion floating about regarding submission of Firefighter applications, so let us try and clear things up. Even with the SFFMA Online project delayed, *we will accept handwritten applications submitted for processing.*

Additionally, we updated the handwritten application online to show (in yellow) objectives added in 2015 which are not included in the modules report. With this change, a department can complete a handwritten form, attach a module report showing all training has been completed, and clearly mark through each of the yellow objectives on the form to document full training completion.

Processing Time

As of today (February 29) we're back down to 31 days for processing certification applications and hope to get that turn-around even faster in the near future. Please note that on each application form the Certification Board requests 30-60 days for processing, but we in the Austin office work to keep below that.

SFFMA also urges all members to gain access to their online member accounts. Please log in using your SFFMA ID# and password (which consists of the lowercase initials of your first and last name, and the last four digits of your SSN). If you have any questions, please email membership@sffma.org.

To All SFFMA District Secretaries,

This committee report and the enclosed proposals for amending the 2016 SFFMA Constitution and By-laws are being sent to you in accordance with the By-Laws, following our recent planning meeting in McAllen, Texas.

First, to assist the association with some clarity, the Constitution & By-Laws Committee used its "housekeeping authority" to address some issues & concerns regarding the use of new logos and names from a DBA that was sought to allow the SFFMA to do business as the "State Firefighters' & Fire Marshals' Association", a slight name change, more in line with today's operations and concerns about gender neutrality.

The legal name of the association will always stay the same; however, we included a reference to the DBA on the cover of the Constitution & By-Laws as a matter of clarity and acknowledgement.

Otherwise, we have two district associations sponsoring proposals this year. One from the Guadalupe District and six from the Red River District.

The Constitution & By-Laws Committee has reviewed these proposals in detail and presents them to you in their entirety.

Please copy and review these with your district officers in order to best inform your member departments. To assure success and move our annual convention along, it is imperative that we share this information and educate our members in the upcoming months at our spring conventions. This will help the voting process move much more smoothly at our convention in June.

Please contact your committee representative from your district, anyone on the Constitution & By-Laws Committee or any of the Executive Board members if you should have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis M. Gifford
Secretary - Constitution & By-laws
Committee

Proposal #1 – Submitted by Guadalupe District, # 2

Current:

Article VIII - Nominations of Officers and Selection of Meeting Place
Section 1. Nomination of all officers, mascots and meeting places shall be made at the hour designated on the official Annual Training Conference and Convention program, during the first (1st) business session of the annual conference.

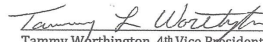
Proposed:

Article VIII - Nominations of Officers and Selection of Meeting Place
Section 1. Nominations of all officers, mascots and meeting places shall be made at the hour designated on the official annual training conference and convention program, during the **annual planning conference**.


Jason Scheef, President/Director

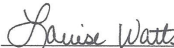

Bernard Scott, 1st Vice President/Director


Paul Bruhn, 3rd Vice President/Director


Tammy Worthington, 4th Vice President


Kent Watts, Jr. Secretary-Treasurer/Director


Edwin Baker, Assistant Secretary
Treasurer/Director


Louise Watts, Chaplain/Director

Proposal #2 - #7 – Submitted by Red River District, #10



Red River District 10
Organized Fire Departments from the Counties of:
Archer, Baylor, Clay, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Knox,
Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger, Wise, and Young

Motto: "Together We Protect"

TO: SFFMA Constitution Committee

SUBJECT: Proposed Constitution and By-Laws Amendment

The Executive Board of the Red River District Number 10 respectfully submits this proposed constitution and by-laws amendment for consideration of the membership at the 2016 convention. The proposed changes are listed below by Article and section after a brief problem statement addressing our rationale for submitting this change.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: The vote of officers to represent the SFFMA members is limited to those paying registration fees and attending the state convention, in addition even those that do make that commitment to voice their vote have to wait until the last business session of the convention for the vote to be recorded. As the annual convention continues to struggle with low attendance, the voting numbers drop, meaning an officer-elect may gain that position by an extremely small percentage of the membership. The location and the size of the population represented may become more the deciding factor than what the membership as a whole desires. Is it right that members are asked to pay to play, so to speak? That being said, unless you are registered and pay the convention fees, plus whatever travel and lodging cost, you don't get your vote counted! Most, if not all, organizations from smaller communities, when deciding to fund conference attendance or keep

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS PROPOSALS

the apparatus on the road will choose the only logical answer is fund the operation of the department. We have many great avenues in this state for funding, but it will cost individuals and/or organizations to make the effort to get delegates to a convention to vote. The cycle will continue to eventually collapse the organization as a whole unless change is made now for the future. Many fire service associations currently conduct their elections by mail or online ballot including NFPA, IAFC and TFCA to encourage all members, not just the members attending the annual conference, to participate in the organization. The SFFMA's mission statement has been included to ensure this organization maintains these guiding principles as it drives to the future.

SFFMA Mission Statement

Promote, Unify, Represent and Educate the Fire Service of Texas

The present wording of the sections being recommended for change are in the boxed areas, and the proposed change is underlined under the box.

Article VI – Delegates

Section 1. Each regularly organized fire department shall be entitled to five delegates at the Annual Training Conference and Convention, provided that all sections to the by-laws have been complied with.

Section 1. Each member organization shall be entitled to five delegates for the purpose of casting votes on behalf of the organization at any and all approved elections, provided that all sections to the by-laws have been complied with.

Section 2. All delegates must be current individual dues paying members, except Industrial Members. Industrial Members must be from a participating Industrial Organization to be delegates and each participating Industrial Organization can have up to five voting delegates. No member delegate shall be allowed to be represented by proxy.

Section 2. All delegates must be current individual dues paying members, except Industrial Members. Industrial members must be from a participating Industrial Organization to be delegates and each participating Industrial Organization can have up to five voting delegates.

Section 3. Lists of delegates from each member department or organization shall be furnished to the secretary upon registration at the Annual Training Conference and Convention.

Section 3. Delegate applications shall be submitted to the Secretary beginning at a time and date based on the election date set by the executive board and finalizing upon registration at the annual convention.

Article VII – Nominations of Officers

Section 1. Nominations of all officers and mascots shall be made at the hour designated on the official Annual Training Conference and Convention program, during the business session of the second day of the annual conference.

Section 1. Nominations of all officers and mascots shall be made at the date and time designated by the Executive Board with ample time to facilitate an election and acquire results for disclosure at the Annual Training Conference and Convention.

Article VIII – Voting and Elections

Section 1. Each properly accredited delegate shall be entitled to one vote at the annual meeting.

Section 1. Each properly accredited delegate shall be entitled to one vote during the election. One delegate from each member organization may cast their ballot by electronic means in the 30-day period prior to the election. The four remaining delegates from each member organization may only cast ballots as registered attendees at the annual convention.

Section 3. Ballots shall be distributed to the Delegates by the Sergeant-at-Arms at such time as their attendance cards are taken up at the last session. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall act as tellers during balloting. The president shall appoint a committee to count all ballots and return a total count to the secretary.

Section 3. Ballots shall be available for distribution 30 days prior to the election to be distributed electronically to one properly certified delegate of each member organization. The state office staff shall take receipt of these returned ballots and secure them for distribution to committee appointed by the president to tally all ballots and return a total count to the secretary. The remaining delegates will receive ballots either electronically or paper at the annual convention.

The Executive Board of the Red River District believes that acceptance of these changes to our parent organization's constitution will continue the mission of the SFFMA to Promote, Unify, Represent and Educate the Fire Service of Texas.

Respectfully Submitted this 9th day of January, 2016.



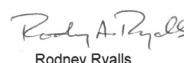
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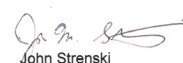
1st Vice President



2nd Vice President



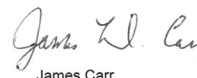
3rd Vice President



4th Vice President



Chaplain



Secretary



Texas

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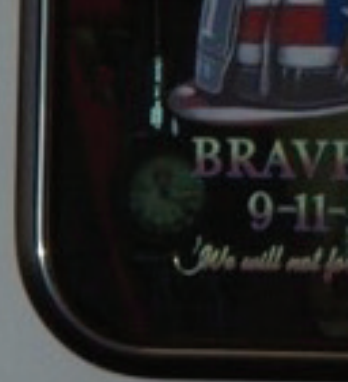
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VAN WINKLE
4TH VICE PRESIDENT**

McAllen 2016



SFFMA

- Firefighter of the Year 2011
- Secretary 2001 - 2010
- Currently serving on Combination Committee
- Past member of the Finance, Credentials, Constitution and By-Laws and Sergeant-At-Arms Committees

North Texas District

- Firefighter of the Year 2010
- Past President and Secretary

Alvarado FD

- Joined in 1977, Fire Chief since 1989

Certifications

- SFFMA Advanced
- TCFP Head of Department

817.538.2313

vanwinkler@cityofalvarado.org



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CONFERENCE INFORMATION

June 24 - 29, 2016

McAllen, TX

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2016

6 - 7 A.M.	Stretch the Day
6:30 - 7 A.M.	Exhibits Committee Meeting
7 A.M. - 5 P.M.	Exhibitor Registration
7 A.M. - 5 P.M.	Exhibit Hall Move-In
8 A.M. - 11 A.M.	Health and Safety Committee Meeting
11 A.M. - 3 P.M.	Executive Board Meeting
2 P.M.	TFA Board and Committee Meeting
3 P.M.	Certification Board Meeting
3 P.M.	T*Flag Meeting
3 P.M.	Fire Marshals Committee Meeting
5:30 P.M.	First-Time Attendee Meeting

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2016

6 A.M.	Stretch the Day
7 A.M.	Past Presidents Breakfast (by invitation only)
7:30 - 9 A.M.	Constitution & By-Laws Committee
8 - 9 A.M.	EMS Committee Meeting
8:15 - 10:15 A.M.	Firefighter/EMS Responder of the Year Interviews
8:30 - 9:30 A.M.	Finance Committee
8:30 A.M.	Sergeant-at-Arms Meeting
9:15 A.M.	Ribbon Cutting
9:15 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.	Exhibit Hall Open
9:15 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.	Registration Inside Exhibit Hall
9:30 A.M. - 3 P.M.	Golf/Driving/Poster Registration/TFA/ Pumper Races
10 A.M.	Pumper Race Committee Meeting
10 - 11 A.M.	Poster Committee Meeting
1 - 3 P.M.	TFA Workshops
3 P.M.	SFFMA Recognition of Exhibitors
4 P.M.	Pumper Race Captain Meeting
4:30 P.M.	First-Time Attendee Meeting (Repeat)
4:30 - 10 P.M.	Exhibit Hall Move-Out
5:30 - 8 P.M.	Pumper Races/Kids Activities

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2016

6 A.M.	Stretch the Day
7:30 - 9:30 A.M.	Driving Contest
8:00 A.M.	Firefighter/EMS Responder of the Year Breakfast - Sponsored by VFIS (by invitation only)
9 A.M.	Memorial Service Rehearsal
10 A.M.	Memorial Service Lineup
10:30 A.M. - 12 P.M.	Memorial Service
12 - 1 P.M.	Luncheon
1 - 4 P.M.	Opening Business Session
Upon Adjournment	Poster Contest Judging
5:30 P.M.	International Committee Meeting
6 - 9 P.M.	Presidents' Reception/ Taste of the Valley

MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2016

6 A.M.	Stretch the Day
7:30 - 8:30 A.M.	TFA Business Meeting Registration
7:30 A.M. - 12 P.M.	Registration
8 A.M. - 5 P.M.	Training Workshops
8:30 A.M.	TFA Business Meeting
10 A.M.	Vernon "Blondy" Rucker Memorial Golf Tournament
6 - 9 P.M.	Hospitality Night Events

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2016

6 A.M.	Stretch the Day
7:30 - 11 A.M.	Registration
8 A.M.	Credentials Committee
8 A.M. - 5 P.M.	Training Workshops
11 A.M.	TFA Luncheon
7 - 10 P.M.	Dinner & Dance

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2016

8 - 10:30 A.M.	Closing Business Session
8:30 A.M.	TFA Board Meeting
1 - 3 P.M.	SFFMA Executive Board Meeting

REGISTRATION NOTES

WEEKEND REGISTRATION: Anyone wishing to attend just the weekend portion of the SFFMA conference is required to sign up for the weekend registration and pay a registration fee. Your fee will include access to exhibits, pumper races, memorial service, memorial service luncheon, and the Presidents' Reception. If you are only interested in attending the exhibits, you don't have to register.

JUNIOR EXPLORER ATTENDEES: We welcome ALL Junior Explorer program attendees and encourage them to participate in training (to count toward their future certifications). However, they will have to pay full conference registration in order to do so.

NEW THIS YEAR

STRETCH THE DAY - Start your day right! Come join Roy Mercer in a series of stretching exercises. Meet each morning at 6 a.m. (Wednesday 6/29 excluded).

Stretching is a form of physical exercise in which a specific muscle or muscle group is deliberately flexed or stretched in order to improve the muscle's felt elasticity and achieve comfortable muscle tone. In its most basic form, stretching is a natural and instinctive activity. Increasing flexibility through stretching is one of the basic tenets of physical fitness. (source Wikipedia).

MAIN EVENTS

EXHIBITS

Saturday, June 25, 9:15 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. McAllen Convention Center - Expo
Complimentary self parking available. Come see the latest technology, service and products our sustaining members have to offer. Admission is free.

PUMPER RACES

Saturday, June 25, 5:30 - 8:00 P.M. Old Convention Center - McAllen
Pumper races for 3 and 6-men/ ladies teams. Team members don't have to be from the same fire department. Each 3-member team has to run 50 feet before performing the following: first member connects a hose to the truck, second member connects hoses together, and third connects nozzle to allow water to flow until a stream emerges from the nozzle. Six-member team members have to connect hard suction hose to hydrant, pull hose from the hose bed, and, in an approximate straight line, connect to pumper on one side and to a nozzle on the other side, open valve on hydrant and allow water to flow until a stream emerges from the nozzle. *Registration will be available in the Exhibit Hall until 3 p.m.*

DRIVING CONTEST

Sunday, June 26, 7:30 - 9:30 A.M. Old Convention Center - McAllen
Sign up to test your ability at a timed obstacle course or come cheer for a friend.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, June 26, 10:30 A.M. - Noon McAllen Convention Center
To honor those who passed away in a line-of-duty or non-line-of-duty death in the past 12 months. Names to be submitted by May 20, 2016.

BUSINESS SESSIONS

Sunday, June 26, 1 - 4 P.M./Wednesday, June 29, 8 - 10:30 A.M. Convention Center
Business sessions include fire service agency reports, executive director's report, committee updates, and delegate voting (Wednesday).

PRESIDENTS' RECEPTION/ TASTE OF THE VALLEY

Sunday, June 26, 6 - 9 P.M. outside of McAllen Convention Center
SFFMA, TFA presidents and the Rio Grande Valley District invite you to enjoy an evening of great food and entertainment.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, June 27, 10 A.M. Palm View Golf Course, 2701 South Ware Rd., McAllen.
Golf tournament has, on average, 60 players. Registration fee is \$75 per player.

HOSPITALITY NIGHT

Monday, June 27, 6 - 9 P.M. at the Host Hotel
Various candidates for office and other entities will be hosting hospitality suites at the Host Hotel. Food and drinks will be provided. Open to all conference attendees.

DINNER & DANCE

Tuesday, June 27, 7 - 10 P.M. McAllen Convention Center.
Dinner and dance. No awards will be given during this event. Dress code: no shorts or flip-flops, please. Each conference attendee will receive one dinner & dance ticket with their registration. Additional tickets can be purchased for \$35 each.



140TH ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE AND CONVENTION

JUNE 24 - 29, 2016

MCALLEN, TX

OFFICE USE ONLY

REGISTRATION FORM

AVOID FILLING OUT REGISTRATION FORM BY REGISTERING ONLINE AT www.sffma.org.

Member ID#: **Rank*:** *This information will be included on your name badge.

Member Type: ☐ **Member (Non-voting)** ☐ **Non-Member** ☐ **Presenter** ☐ **SFFMA Board/Past President** ☐ **Delegate**

Name: (as to appear on badge)

Mobile #:

Email:

Fire Department/Organization:

☐ **First-Time Attendee** ☐ **Junior Explorer****

** Junior Explorers (15-18) must pay full conference registration in order to participate in training and CANNOT be voting delegates.

For Delegates Only: Each member department is authorized to send up to five delegates. Registration must have an approved signature from the fire chief on file to be processed.

☐ I authorize the above-named individual to represent our member department as a delegate at this year's annual conference. I understand there can only be five delegates per department participating in the voting process.

Delegate #: 1 2 3 4 5

Fire Chief Signature:

FEES & DEADLINES

Full Registration Fee includes:

- Access to exhibits, all functions
- Training workshops (including certificates)
- ONE dinner & dance ticket per registrant

Members
 BEFORE MAY 31, \$200
 AFTER MAY 31, \$275

Non-Members
 BEFORE MAY 31, \$240
 AFTER MAY 31, \$340

Members

☐ \$30 each

Non-Members

☐ \$40 each

Weekend Registration*:

One-Day Training Registration:

- Training workshops and evening event of the day

☐ Monday

BEFORE MAY 31, \$85

BEFORE MAY 31, \$105

☐ Tuesday

AFTER MAY 31, \$105

AFTER MAY 31, \$125

NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED AFTER MAY 31.

PLEASE INDICATE ACTIVITIES YOU PLAN TO ATTEND:

☐ **PUMPER RACES (SAT)**

☐ **HOSPITALITY NIGHT (MON)**

☐ **PRESIDENTS RECEPTION (SUN)**

☐ **DINNER & DANCE (TUE)**

(A) Subtotal:

TFA AND ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION—Allowed only with the purchase of the FULL conference registration above.

This registration includes access to main conference, exhibits, activities, and ONE dinner & dance ticket per registrant.

NOTE: TFA and additional registrants will NOT be eligible to receive continuing education credits.

BEFORE MAY 31, \$75 + AFTER MAY 31, \$95

ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION TYPES: ☐ TFA ☐ SPOUSE OF SFFMA/TFA MEMBER ☐ GUEST OF SFFMA/TFA MEMBER ☐ OTHER

(1) NAME:

(2) NAME:

YOUTH REGISTRATION—Allowed only with the FULL conference registration above: includes access to exhibits, activities, and ONE dinner & dance ticket per registrant. Price of \$35 for ages 7-17; children 6 and under are FREE!

(1) NAME: AGE:

(3) NAME: AGE:

(2) NAME: AGE:

(4) NAME: AGE:

ADDITIONAL DINNER & DANCE TICKETS—Available for those who will be attending the SFFMA Dinner & Dance ONLY.

X \$35 Each =

(B) Subtotal:

THIS TRAINING CONFERENCE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE FOR ELIGIBLE HB2604 GRANT FUNDING.



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#:

Subtotals (A)

CARDHOLDER NAME:

☐ PO

(B)

CREDIT CARD #:

EXPIRATION DATE: (mm/yr)

GRAND TOTAL:

COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE MAILED TO:

FAXED TO: 512.453.1876

EMAILED TO: GGLASS@SFFMA.ORG

SFFMA CONFERENCE 2016

PO BOX 1709

MANCHACA, TX 78652-1709

PLEASE SELECT YOUR TRAINING WORKSHOPS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.

PLEASE ANSWER QUESTIONS BELOW

- Do you require special assistance during conference? Please specify. _____
- Do you have any severe food allergies or dietary restrictions (Sunday luncheon & Tuesday dinner)? _____
☐ Vegetarian ☐ Vegan ☐ Gluten Free ☐ Other _____

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

AM	8:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	PM	1:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.
MONDAY	<input type="checkbox"/> VENTILATION <i>Brent Allen</i>	VENTILATION - continued <i>Brent Allen</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> ROPES AND KNOTS WITH KNOTS TYING <i>Edwin Baker, Jason Scheel, Brian Deason</i>	ROPES AND KNOTS WITH KNOTS TYING continued <i>Edwin Baker, Jason Scheel, Brian Deason</i>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATION TESTING <i>* pre-registration is required</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATION TESTING <i>* pre-registration is required</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP <i>Kevin Creamer</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP <i>Kevin Creamer</i>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> CANCER RISKS AND PREVENTION IN THE FIRE SERVICE <i>Phil Vassile</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> HAZMAT IMPACTS OF WELL SITE FIRE INSPECTIONS <i>Todd Johnson</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS - INDUSTRIAL/ GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DURING A RESPONSE <i>Jeff Suggs</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> INCIDENTS FROM THE PAST THAT MAY BE IN YOUR FUTURE <i>Woody Cole</i>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> DEVELOPING AND DEPLOYING TACTICS FOR WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE FIRES THROUGH RISK ASSESSMENT <i>Bruce Woods, Michael Tiller, Stuart Coombs</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> WILDLAND FIRE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM <i>Ron Roy</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> WILDLAND FIRE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM - continued <i>Ron Roy</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> TACTICS FOR THE WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE <i>Jared Karnes</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> FIRE SUPPRESSION RATING SCHEDULE AND PUBLICATION RULES <i>Phillip Bradley</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> ISSUES, CONCERNS AND BEST PRACTICES RELATED TO MANAGING THE FINANCIAL SYSTEMS OF ESOS <i>Dave Bradley</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES- TEXAS CASE STUDIES <i>Chris Connealy</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> THE MAN IN THE MIRROR: DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF PROFESSIONALISM AND LEADERSHIP <i>Ricky B. Snell</i>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> COURAGE TO BE SAFE <i>Danny Hurt, Rayford Gibson</i>	COURAGE TO BE SAFE - continued <i>Danny Hurt, Rayford Gibson</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> XTN047 SAFE PRACTICE FOR TRAFFIC INCIDENT RESPONDERS SHRP2 <i>David Rosier, Robert Averitt</i>	XTN047 SAFE PRACTICE FOR TRAFFIC INCIDENT RESPONDERS SHRP2 <i>David Rosier, Robert Averitt</i>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> "MAKE IT STICK - CONFRONTING YOUR PATIENT HANDLING AND WORKERS COMPENSATION ISSUES" <i>Bryan Fass</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> EVERYTHING YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT BACK PAIN IS WRONG! <i>Bryan Fass</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> PREHOSPITAL CARE FOR THE PREHOSPITAL CARE PROVIDER <i>Ricky B. Snell</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> REDEFINING THE HEALTHY FIREFIGHTER <i>John Hofman</i>	
TUESDAY	<input type="checkbox"/> OPEN GOVERNMENT <i>Michelle Jordan</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> DEFENSIVE TACTICS FOR RESPONDER SAFETY <i>Joe Vega, Richard Trevino, David Santivanez</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> RISKY BUSINESS: APPLICATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT IN THE FIRE SERVICE <i>Chris Kehl</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> SUICIDE BY HAZMAT <i>Eloy Salazar, Octi Hernandez, Pete Bustamante</i>	
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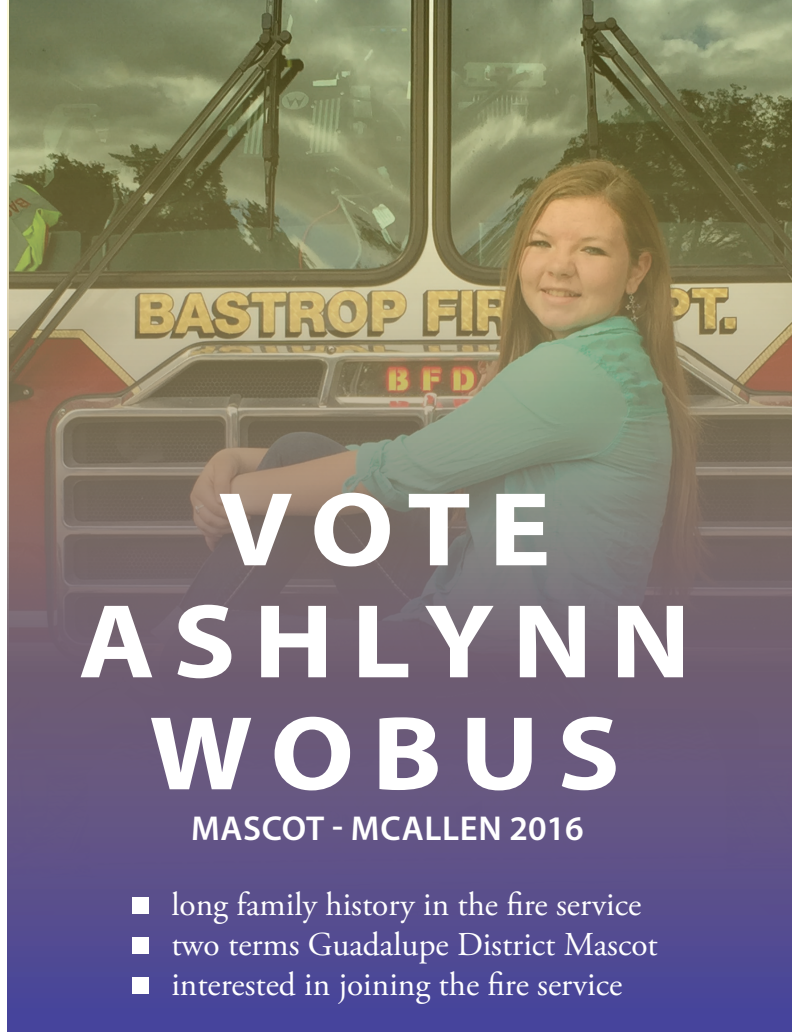


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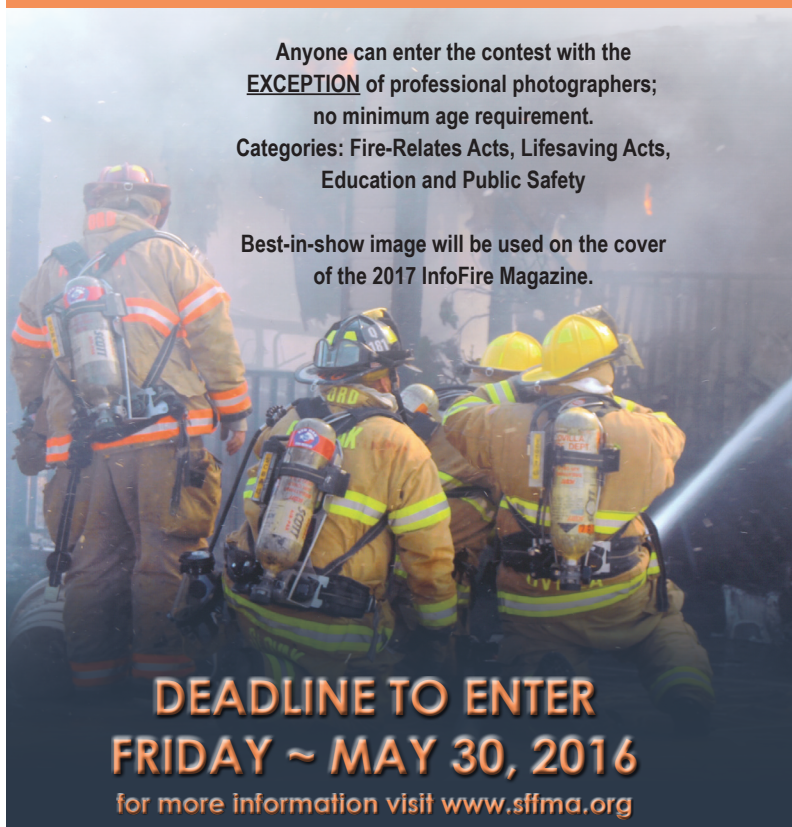
MASCOT - MCALLEN 2016

- long family history in the fire service
- two terms Guadalupe District Mascot
- interested in joining the fire service

2016 TEXAS FIREFIGHTER PHOTO CONTEST

Anyone can enter the contest with the
EXCEPTION of professional photographers;
no minimum age requirement.
Categories: Fire-Related Acts, Lifesaving Acts,
Education and Public Safety

Best-in-show image will be used on the cover
of the 2017 InfoFire Magazine.



**DEADLINE TO ENTER
FRIDAY ~ MAY 30, 2016**

for more information visit www.sffma.org

House Bill 1295: What is an ESD's responsibility?

written by Colby Nichols, Associate Attorney, Powel & Leon, LLP

Every other year the Legislature meets and creates new laws that both benefit the public and burden it. House Bill 1295 may be a benefit to the public (that is yet to be determined), but it most certainly is a burden for governmental entities, including Emergency Services Districts ("ESDs"). The new law is codified at Texas Government Code § 2252.908 and prohibits ESDs from entering into any contracts with a business entity (after January 1, 2016) unless the business entity submits a disclosure of interested parties for contracts that:

1. Require an action or vote by the ESD Board; or
2. Have value of at least \$1 million.

These stipulations have caused much confusion, as the Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) interpretation of whether a vote is required by the ESD Board may be different than the common understanding. In fact, the TEC states that an action or vote by a Board is not required if:

1. The Board of Trustees has legal authority to delegate to its staff the authority to execute the contract;
2. The Board of Trustees has delegated to its staff the authority to execute the contract; and
3. The Board of Trustees does not participate in the selection of the business entity with which the contract is entered into.

1 TAC § 46.1(c)

Each one of the above criteria must be met for an ESD to decide that a specific contract is exempt from the new disclosure requirements. For example, if the Board participates in the selection of the vendor, the new disclosure requirements apply even if the Board has delegated authority to its staff to execute the contract.

It is also important to note that the TEC has defined "contract" as including "an amended, extended, or renewed contract." 1 TAC § 46.3(a). So, if an ESD entered into a contract with a business entity in 2015 or before, but seeks to amend,

extend, or renew that contract on or after January 1, 2016, the new disclosure requirements of Texas Government Code § 2252.908 will be triggered.

Recommended Procedures to Comply with Disclosure Requirements

We recommend that ESDs and vendors take the following steps in sequential order to comply with the TEC rules and Texas Government Code § 2252.908:

1. Issue an identification number that will be used by the ESD to track or identify the contract, along with a brief description of the goods or services being provided pursuant to the contract. Under the TEC rules, the vendor will need this information in order to fill out the form at the TEC website. The ID number can be as simple as the year plus an identifying sequential number, eg. 2016-001, 2016-002, 2016-003, etc.
2. Send an email to the vendor giving the vendor the ESD's ID number for the contract and the brief description of the goods or services, and directing the vendor to the TEC website to fill out the new Form 1295. An example of the email that should be sent is as follows:

Dear Vendor,

New disclosure requirements were written into the law during the 2015 legislative session. The new law is codified at Texas Government Code § 2252.908, which was enacted by H.B. 1295, and requires, as of January 1, 2016, that vendors file a disclosure form electronically with the Texas Ethics Commission identifying the vendor's interested parties to certain contracts with Texas ESDs. When applicable, the process must be completed prior to contract execution or purchase order issuance.

You are receiving this email because the _____ ESD wishes to purchase [description of the type of goods or services] from your company. The process and form you will complete online with the State of Texas requires you to provide an identification number that _____ ESD has issued to track or identify the contract identification number. The ESD's identification number for this contract is [eg. "2016-xxx"]. _____

ESD is identified as an "OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY", not a state agency.

Instructional videos and an FAQ about how to register and file a report are available on the Texas Ethics Commission Website at: https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf_info_form1295.htm

Please register and complete the form for our transaction on the Texas Ethics Commission's website. Once completed, you will need to print it out, sign it before a notary, and submit it to us along with the signed contract.

We recommend that you consult with your legal counsel regarding compliance with this new law.

The vendor should then go online at the TEC website, fill out the form electronically, print it, sign it in front of a notary, and return the signed form with the contract to the ESD. Upon receipt of the signed form and not later than the 30th day after the date the contract binds all parties, the ESD must go online to the TEC website and electronically notify the Commission of the receipt of the completed disclosure of interested parties form. Of course, these signed forms must be maintained by your ESD in accordance with your document retention policies and made available to someone who makes a Texas Public Information Act request.

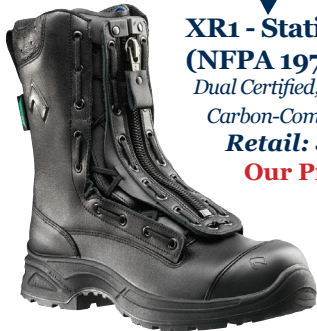
In the first month of this new system, the TEC had over 2,000 submissions. This number will only grow as more entities become aware of its passage. Our firm has spearheaded an effort to ensure compliance with this new initiative. In fact, our firm must also file a 1295 when contracting with various governmental entities. While the burden ultimately falls onto the business entity to do the bulk of the work, any contract which does not comply is potentially voidable under the law. Thus, ESDs need to make an effort to ensure compliance at every turn.

I hope this information has been helpful. If we can provide any further assistance in this matter or others, please do not hesitate to contact us. As always, thank you for everything you do for your communities and the state of Texas.

Powel & Leon, LLP is a sustaining member of SFFMA. Their contact information is available upon request.



SFFMA Store



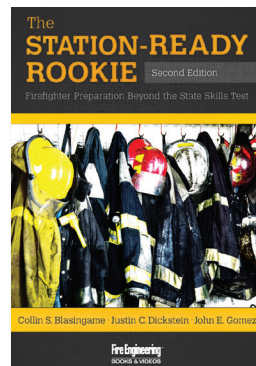
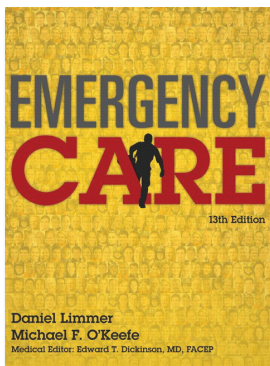
**XR1 - Station/EMS/ WL
(NFPA 1977, 1999)**
Dual Certified, Waterproof Leather,
Carbon-Composite Toe
Retail: \$269+ tax
Our Price: \$248 + tax



ATHLETIC SHOE
Advanced Running Comfort,
Climate System with
Micro-Dry Lining, Anti-Slip.
Retail: \$119+ tax
Our Price: \$107 + tax



SFFMA is an authorized distributor of all IFSTA products.



sales@sffma.org

512.454.3473 ext. 105

VFIS of Texas and Texas Mutual Insurance Company Award \$150k in Grants to Texas Emergency Responders

VFIS of Texas and Texas Mutual Insurance Company recently awarded grants of up to \$5,000 to 71 emergency responder organizations across Texas. Funds awarded through the 2016 Emergency Responder Safety, Training & Wellness Grant Program totaled more than \$150,000 and will enable these organizations to participate in a certification program, attend critical workplace safety training, and implement training/wellness programs to prevent on-duty deaths and injuries.

Over \$600,000 in grant requests were received. VFIS of Texas and Texas Mutual Insurance Company partnered with the State Firefighters' & Fire Marshals' Association of Texas (SFFMA) to manage the application process and select the grant recipients.

"Cardiac events are the leading cause of death among firefighters," said Martin Ritchey, President of Mid-County Volunteer Fire Department.

"Our department wants to be an example for our region in stressing the importance of fitness. We presently lack funds to provide the necessary equipment to achieve our fitness goals. Your grant dollars will be used along with our funds and 'sweat equity' to build out a training space at our station #2. Without your funding we could not afford to acquire the equipment necessary for this important task."

Each recipient submitted an application outlining a specific need or project the grant would fund. This is the third consecutive year Texas Mutual and VFIS of Texas have awarded these grants to emergency responders across the state.

"These grants directly impact our emergency responders by improving their safety and wellness, better preparing them to serve our communities," Barbara Marzean, President of VFIS of Texas, said. *"The more we can do to support safety, training and wellness for these*

emergency service organizations, the more we can reduce and prevent emergency responder injuries and deaths."

To see a full list of 2016 Emergency Responder Safety, Training & Wellness grant recipients, go to <http://www.vfistx.com/news>.

Grantees will be recognized at the SFFMA Annual Conference June 24-29, 2016 in McAllen, Texas.



Competitive Bid Award Detail Sheet:

Product/Service: Automated External Defibrillators, Related Equipment, Accessories & Product Upgrades, ALS Monitors/Defibrillators and Automated CPR Devices Related Equipment, Accessories & Product Upgrades

Service area: United States

Available to: All current Savvik and SFFMA members

Savvik Pricing Arrangements:

Automated External Defibrillators, Related Equipment, Accessories & Product Upgrades

32% discount on AED Plus defibrillators

32% discount on AED Pro defibrillators

25% discount on all accessories and disposables

25% discount on product upgrades

Multiple Unit Sales: Additional discounts available for two or more units in a single purchase order

Freight terms and prepay & add

ALS Monitors/Defibrillators and Automated CPR Devices Related Equipment, Accessories & Product Upgrades

2% discount on AutoPulse

18% discount on X Series defibrillators and related accessories

18% discount on Propaq MD defibrillators and related accessories

25% discount on M Series & E Series related accessories and disposables

Multiple Unit Sales: Additional discounts available for two or more units in a single purchase order

Freight terms are prepay & add

Current Contract Ends: November 30, 2018

More information: For more information or to contact your local sales manager or Heidi Eckhardt, Contracts Specialist, 1-800-242-9150 ext. 9514, heckhardt@zoll.com.

You can also find out more information by visiting the ZOLL corporate website at <http://www.zoll.com>

You must inform your ZOLL Salesperson that you want to bill your purchase through the Savvik contract to receive these benefits and support the SFFMA!

Call 1-888-603-4426 for assistance, or visit www.savvik.org

MY BIGGEST LOSER EXPERIENCE

written by Roy Mercer

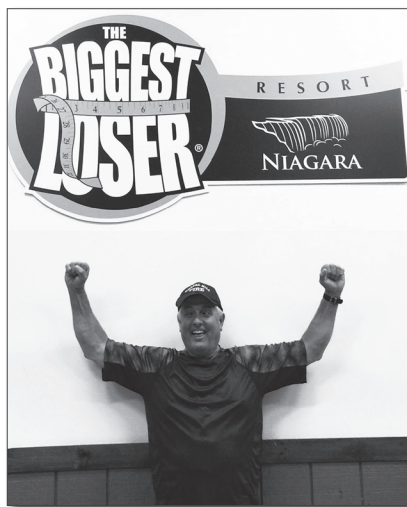
WOW, family life, work life, food choices, stress, the fast paced world and still thinking of ourselves as losers, we just can't live up to everyone's expectations. Time, time, and more time is what the demand is today. In the 1920's and 1930's, society was overworked so employees took action and the government reduced and made regulations to help give us personal and/or relaxation time. Today, we are reliving history by being connected to our work environment and the emergency response processes 24/7. Face it, let's put it on the table, we are overweight, getting older, and exercise and proper eating becomes quite difficult as a worker and a community-driven individual. It is TIME to take time for yourself. However, can we even live up to our own expectations? Yes! The Biggest Loser campus in Niagara Falls (BL) last spring taught me how, and now I wish to share an experience that can benefit many.

The biggest and most important lesson was spend time with those who matter most, YOU being first on the list, because without you there is no need to worry about the rest. Most experts suggest picking the time of day you can focus on you. For example, I start my day around 4 a.m. each morning, having a cup of coffee, no cream and sugar. Is it good for you? Yes, if you enjoy it. Let's face reality, most everything we consume is not good for us in one way or another. Those of you that have to have that morning soda, keep in mind the ingredients are full of bad stuff (visit "Hunger for Change" on the internet to learn more). If you have to have a soda, do something to counter the reactions. For example, if you drink all the bad stuff, exercise.

Exercise comes in many forms and programs, again our focus was "giving us choices". On the average, BL made us workout 5 ½ hours a day for a week. While this is not realistic, they were giving us choices in our workout plans. One workout day at BL was equivalent to one workout week back at home. You need to do the type of exercise you enjoy involving some kind of cardio and muscle strengthening.

I have been very confused with this because I like running. As I get older it becomes more difficult, but trying is the key. Please don't listen to others as they try to discourage you from doing what you like. Most likely they really wish they could do it, and they could, if they make it a priority. We are not telling you to run. The best form of exercise is doing some type of outdoor activity you enjoy, anything from working in the yard to riding a bike 150 miles. Three very important rules, even I have a problem maintaining are: stretching your body before you take

on the activity, drinking 100 ounces of water a day, or ½ your body weight, in ounces of water a day, and take small steps toward your goals. Stretching, has been echoed from the experts throughout my life. Looking back at my injuries during my career in emergency services, if I would have stretched in the morning it would have prevented most of those injuries. At the BL we had a choice to get up early or sleep in, we took an hour of stretching to soft music every morning, remember this is a form of exercise. A recommended app is SWorkit. This app shows you how to stretch and gives you choices on what to stretch and has a timer, with music to relax you. Small steps toward your goals can be rewarding because you see the results, and before you know it you will be setting bigger goals. Listen to your body, if something is hurting or not feeling right during the exercise, STOP. Take time to exam the problem. Don't confuse this with regular workout pain - our bodies are aging and undergoing changes so there will be some discomfort.



At BL we ate healthy and felt full all day long, and I still lost 10 pounds during that week. Throw away the scale. You are trying to lose body fat, not regular scale weight; this is the term I use. One goal was to lose 1 pound of body fat a month (still trying). Yes, it becomes difficult, but it is one that sticks in our mind. If we are exercising and eating right you could actually gain weight not lose it because you are building muscle mass. BL encourages you to eat 45 minutes after you wake up or 45 minutes after your morning exercise; I prefer after morning exercises. They also recommend no food consumption 2 hours before bedtime.

Knowing your Basal Metabolic Rate (BMR) also helps you understand yourself. The BMR is the minimum number of calories your body needs to function when completely at rest, these calories are what you need to

survive the day. Are you eating over this rate? If so, counter balance with more physical activity. Equally as important is if you become more active and are exercising more during the day, then your calorie intake may have to increase. BL recommends you should have consumed half of your BMR for the day after you have eaten lunch. Furthermore, people will approach you and ask what type of diet you are on. If you are

on a diet, you could be depriving the body of nutrients to help your physical condition. Eat small portions, about five times a day. Another app I would suggest is Fooducate. This app recommends alternative healthy products to what you may already like.

Lastly, BL was the best medical treatment I have ever received. The experience will never be forgotten: relaxing, peaceful, and getting to know yourself. I will return. Take the TIME and go. Call them first they will be glad to help you through the process. Become that loser of weight, gain time for yourself, and maintain a happy life style.

Join Roy Mercer for guided stretching sessions during annual conference in McAllen. See page 14 for more information.

MONDAY - June 27, 2016 **FIREFIGHTER I - 8 A.M. - NOON** **VENTILATION IFSTA 6TH EDITION - CHAPTER 13**

Brent Allen - Assistant Fire Chief, Ballinger FD
The importance of ventilation. We will cover the reasons for ventilation, the considerations that need to be applied before we begin ventilating, and the different varieties of ventilation that can be used.

Objectives covered: 7-I.01, I.02, I.06, I.08, I.09, I.10, I.11, I. 13, I.14

FIREFIGHTER I - 1 - 5 P.M. **ROPES AND KNOTS WITH KNOTS TYING**

Edwin Baker - Fire Chief, Stockdale VFD,
Jason Scheel - Fire Chief, LaVernia FD, Brian Deason - Captain, Stockdale VFD
FFI ropes and knots for structural firefighting.

Objectives covered: 20 - I. 01 - 20. I.12

CERTIFICATION/ CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR - 8 A.M. - NOON **CERTIFICATION TESTING**

SFFMA has partnered with TEEX-ESTI to provide written examinations for the SFFMA Certification Program at the annual conference toward full Firefighter I & II certification.

*Individuals interested in enrolling in the testing session must contact the Austin Office no later than Friday, **June 10th**. There will be no exceptions to this date and walk-ins will not be allowed. Any requests based on special needs must be stated at the time of registration to allow time for arrangements to be made.*

On the day of the exam, be sure to bring a valid photo ID to the testing session. Those taking the Firefighter I exam will also need to bring a copy of the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) to cover the HazMat portion of the exam. Concerns about specific questions must be addressed to the exam proctor prior to leaving the testing session.

CERTIFICATION/ CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR - 1 - 2:45 P.M. **CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP**

This course is intended to further an understanding of the SFFMA Certification Program, as well including practices and procedures.

Subjects include: Coordinator requirements and duties; use of personal information; application completion; personal information; application completion and submission procedures; examinations; transition of firefighter program from 2011 to present.

CERTIFICATION/ CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR - 3 - 4:45 P.M. **CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP** see description above.

INDUSTRIAL/ HAZMAT - 8 - 9:45 A.M. **CANCER RISKS AND PREVENTION IN THE FIRE SERVICE**

Phil Vasile - McQueeney VFD

The primary objective of this session is to educate the attendee regarding the hazards of breathing toxic fumes and to motivate personnel to 'protect themselves'. Reports, probability statistics, and legal issues will be discussed.

Topics include: Forms of cancer contracted and their symptoms; your prevention; how you can improve the detection process; and your response to a potential positive diagnosis and how to communicate with your doctor(s).

The key is to motivate the listener to take specific actions while on the fire field to prevent contracting cancer, and to be alert to symptoms related to the various forms of cancer and to detect them 'early'.

INDUSTRIAL/ HAZMAT - 10 - 11:45 A.M. **HAZMAT IMPACTS OF WELL SITE FIRE RESPONSE**

Todd Johnson - Sr. Environmental Advisor, Wild Well Control

This lecture offers participants the opportunity to experience the complexities of managing the hazardous environmental conditions present during a well control incident and to gain practical knowledge in the oversight processes necessary to manage a potentially catastrophic event. Each participant will gain a better understanding of the management requirements and crafts necessary to effectively coordinate and support the hazmat response activities during an oil or gas well emergency.

INDUSTRIAL/ HAZMAT - 1 - 2:45 P.M. **CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS-INDUSTRIAL/ GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DURING A RESPONSE**

Jeff Suggs - Kuraray America, Inc.

INDUSTRIAL/ HAZMAT - 3 - 4:45 P.M. **INCIDENTS FROM THE PAST THAT MAY BE IN YOUR FUTURE.**

Woody Cole - Calpine Corporation

A review of incidents from previous years that certainly can happen present day.

WILDLAND - 8 - 9:45 A.M. **DEVELOPING AND DEPLOYING TACTICS FOR WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE FIRES THROUGH RISK ASSESSMENTS**

Bruce Woods - Chief, Texas A&M Forest Service, Michael Miller, WUI Specialist II, Stuart Coombs, WUI Specialist II

Fires in the Wildland Urban Interface present firefighters with dangerous challenges. Attendees will be presented difficult wildfire simulations using an interactive three-

dimensional Sim Table. Complex issues within the WUI fire environment and the importance of completing risk assessments to develop and deploy tactics will be provided to attendees.

WILDLAND - 10 A.M. - 2:45 P.M. **WILDLAND FIRE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM** Ron Roy - Division Chief, NVFC Wildland Committee Chair

The Wildland Fire Assessment Program (WFAP) will teach you how to work-side-by-side with homeowners to identify threats around their property that may be susceptible to wildfires. WFAP is a joint effort between the National Volunteer Fire Council and the U.S. Forest Service to prepare fire departments or other interested personnel with the necessary information, skills, and resources to conduct home safety assessments and provide residents with recommendations as to how to make their homes more fire adapted.

The program offers training and resources in a train-the-trainer format so you can teach department personnel about how to perform a home assessment. A checklist and supplemental resources are provided along with marketing tools to help promote this service to the public.

WILDLAND - 3 - 4:45 P.M. **TACTICS FOR THE WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE**

Jared Karns - Branch Fire Coordinator, Texas A&M Forest Service

This session will address wildfires that are threatening homes in the WUI and will cover size-up, strategy and tactics.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT - 8 - 9:45 A.M. **FIRE SUPPRESSION RATING SCHEDULE AND PUBLICATION RULES**

Phillip Bradley - ISO

General Information on ISO & PPC Program, Fire Suppression Rating Schedule, Publication Rules.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT - 10 - 11:45 A.M. **ISSUES, CONCERNS AND BEST PRACTICES RELATED TO MANAGING THE FINANCIAL SYSTEMS OF ESOS**

Dave Bradley - VFIS

Unfortunately, losses as a result of staff dishonesty are increasing. Emergency Service Organization (ESO) funds are often at risk of misuse and embezzlement. This type of loss not only disrupts the ESO but families and communities as well. The damage to an ESO's reputation in the community can hinder fundraising efforts and good will and can be extremely difficult to repair. The loss of funds can jeopardize high-quality response, equipment and services to the community.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT - 1 - 2:45 P.M.

FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES - TEXAS CASE STUDIES

Chris Connealy - State Fire Marshal, Texas State Fire Marshal's Office

This presentation will review several firefighter fatalities that have occurred in Texas and the lessons learned so that firefighters can learn from these experiences and survive in this dangerous profession.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT - 3 - 4:45 P.M.

THE MAN IN THE MIRROR - DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF PROFESSIONALISM AND LEADERSHIP

Ricky B. Snell - EMT Coordinator, Bastrop First Responders EMT Training Academy

Taking a look at yourself as a leader, discussion on professionalism and leadership and the road blocks that stand in our way of good leadership and the steps of professional conduct.

The information presented will provide not only the foundation for individual change in leadership and professional improvement, but provide tools that can be presented to the units and organization to inspire change, increase morale, and improve public opinion.

SAFETY - 8 A.M. - Noon

COURAGE TO BE SAFE

**Danny Hurt - Pleasant Grove FD
Rayford Gibson - TEEEX**

Firefighters must have courage to face a multitude of risks in order to save lives and protect their communities.

Their courage allows them to willingly risk their own lives so that others can be saved. A different type of courage is required to stay safe in potentially dangerous situations, avoiding needless risk, and tragic consequences. This provocative and moving presentation is designed to change the culture of accepting the loss of firefighters as a normal occurrence.

Building on the untold story of line-of-duty death (LODD) survivors, it reveals how family members must live with the consequences of a firefighter's death, and provides a focus on the need for firefighters and officers to change fundamental attitudes and behaviors in order to prevent line-of-duty-deaths. The central theme promotes the courage to do the right thing in order to protect yourself and the other firefighters and ensure that "Everyone Goes Home" at the end of the day.

SAFETY - 1 - 4:45 P.M.

SAFE PRACTICES FOR TRAFFIC INCIDENT RESPONDERS

David Rosier - Regional Training Manager - Region 2 - TEEEX, Robert Averitt - TEEEX

On-scene responders are extremely important at any traffic incident. This course stresses how to address two simultaneous objectives specific to traffic collisions: safe procedures used to clear a crash scene and maximizing roadway space available for continued traffic movement. Participants

with responsibility for traffic control at crash scenes are often required to operate in a very hazardous environment. During these events, both responders and motorists are at risk of being seriously injured in a secondary crash. Participants will learn the importance of "quick clearance," one of the most effective actions to be taken. Participants are also provided important information related to effective Traffic Incident Management (TIM).

EMS - 8 - 9:45 a.m.

"MAKE IT STICK ... CONFRONTING YOUR PATIENT HANDLING AND WORKERS COMPENSATION ISSUES"

Bryan Fass - President, Fit Responder

Your department spends countless hours on medical and operational training but how many hours do you spend training employees to reduce liability and injury? We will examine why injury occurs in Fire-EMS, what patient and equipment handling errors commonly cause injury, look at why some new technology may actually increase injury and uncover the common myths surrounding ergonomics in the field. Then you will learn how 5 simple steps applied to patient and equipment handling can reduce your workers' compensation costs by over 60%.

EMS - 10 - 11:45 A.M.

EVERYTHING YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT BACK PAIN IS WRONG!

Bryan Fass - President, Fit Responder

Pain is not normal, your back is not strong and you do not have the ability to lift with your legs! This class will teach responders how to manage minor symptoms, strengthen their core to prevent injury and answer the BIG question: Can you really lift with your legs? Plus, we will dissect the postures and bio-mechanical patterns that cause most of your pain and injury in the fire service.

EMS - 1 - 2:45 P.M.

PREHOSPITAL CARE FOR THE PREHOSPITAL CARE PROVIDER

Ricky B. Snell - EMT Coordinator, Bastrop First Responders EMT Training Academy

A comprehensive discussion on our jobs and on how we are effected by the hard truths of EMS and on what we need to do to help ourselves and our profession.

The information presented will provide not only the foundation for individual change, but provide tools that can be presented to other units and organizations to inspire change, increase morale, and improve public opinion.

EMS - 3 - 4:45 P.M.

REDEFINING THE HEALTHY FIREFIGHTER

John Hofman, CSCS*D, MS

How do you define healthy firefighter? Is it defined by fire specific tasks? Or maybe by running a 1.5 mile in under 12 minutes? There has been a lot of debate in the field on what exactly a healthy firefighter is. This lecture will explain that each firefighter (volunteer or career) has six areas of concern that must be addressed to be considered a healthy firefighter and improve longevity.

GENERAL - 8 -9:45 A.M.

OPEN GOVERNMENT

Michelle Jordan - Executive Director, TESRS

Open Government is a concept that centers around the public's right to have access to government documents and proceedings or meetings, in order to ensure ongoing public oversight and accountability. Because firefighters are often called on to attend and participate in local city/county government meetings and because departments frequently have interaction with local government officials, an introduction to the Open Meetings Act and the Texas Public Information Act will be beneficial to SFFMA members. In addition, Open Government relates to the legislative process, since Legislative hearings are subject to the Open Meetings Act. In addition to a study of the Open Meetings Act and the Texas Public Information Act, a review will be given of the website, "Texas Legislature Online", along with its free subscription process, in order to assist firefighters in being informed on subject matters of interest to fire service during the legislative process.

GENERAL - 10 - 11:45 A.M.

DEFENSIVE TACTICS FOR RESPONDER SAFETY

Joe Vega - Patrolman II, Edinburg Police Department

The practicality of Pressure Point Control Tactics. Cover the Fight, Fight or Freeze Syndrome. The types of restraints that are used. Verbal and non-verbal cues. Ladder of force. Documenting an incident involving use of force. Demonstration, application, and techniques of defensive tactics.

GENERAL 1 - 2:45 P.M.

RISKY BUSINESS: APPLICATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT IN THE FIRE SERVICE

Chris Kehl - Director, Brazos Valley IMT

This session will cover the need for, and application of, Risk Management principles in the Fire Service. Attendees will be exposed to successful tools, programs and methodologies from business and industry that can be applied to the fire service.

GENERAL 3 - 4:45 P.M.

SUICIDE BY HAZMAT

Eloy Salazar - Assistant Chief, Pharr Fire Rescue, Octi Hernandez - Lieutenant, Pharr Fire Rescue, Pete Bustamante - Lieutenant, Pharr Fire Rescue

Session will cover a new way to commit suicide by mixing chemicals. Unfortunately, we as first responders could be potential victims if we do not remain acutely aware of our surroundings. There are a few clues that may alert you to this type of incident. This training will give you a look at two documented suicides using photographs and video during our response from beginning to end. We will cover what was encountered, PPE selection, identification, decontamination, planning and termination of the incident.

TUESDAY - June 28, 2016

FIREFIGHTER II- 8 A.M. - NOON

FLOOD AWARENESS FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Robert Rene Alvarez - Captain, Mission Fire Department, Joel Dominguez - DC, Douglas Williams - DC

Trainees will be instructed on the planning, operating in, and safety of first responders in a flood/swift water emergencies.

FIREFIGHTER II 1 - 5 P.M.

FIRE & LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES - PROMOTING A POSITIVE IMAGE - PUTTING OUR BEST FOOT FORWARD

Paul Gregory - Fire Chief, Galena Park Fire/EMS, Cary Roccaforte - Deputy Chief, Galena Park Fire/EMS

How to promote a more positive image of your fire department through education, engineering, & enforcement. Programs to help not only your department but the citizens of the community you serve.

CERTIFICATION/ CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR - 8 - 9:45 A.M. CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP

This course is intended to further an understanding of the SFFMA Certification Program, as well including practices and procedures.

Subjects include: Coordinator requirements and duties; use of personal information; application completion; personal information; application completion and submission procedures; examinations; transition of firefighter program from 2011 to present.

CERTIFICATION/ CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR - 10 - 11: 45 A.M. TEXTFIRS DATA RELIABILITY

Virginia Garza, TEXTFIRS Program Manager, Texas State Fire Marshal's Office

Overview on TEXTFIRS incident reporting guidelines, coding accuracy and use of data in GIS applications.

CERTIFICATION/ CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR - 1 - 5 P.M. CERTIFICATION TESTING

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the time of registration to allow time for arrangements to be made.

On the day of the exam, be sure to bring a valid photo ID to the testing session. Those taking the Firefighter I exam will also need to bring a copy of the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) to cover the HazMat portion of the exam. Concerns about specific questions must be addressed to the exam proctor prior to leaving the testing session.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT 8 A.M. - Noon NIMS/ ICS REFRESHER

TBA

NIMS/ICS refresher will give students the opportunity to refresh on the Incident Command System and the components that go with ICS. Also, students will engage in table top exercises to utilize the skills and knowledge of ICS. This class will be very interactive and action orientated.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT 1 - 5 P.M. NIMS/ ICS REFRESHER/ Exercise

TBA - (see description above)

SAFETY 8 - 9:45 A.M. PLANNING FOR RESPONDER RESILIENCY - KEEPING OUR RESPONDERS SAFE!

Carolyn Elizabeth Cuevas - University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Planning for Responder Resiliency is the ability to overcome despite adversity. Resiliency can be described as the ability to return to a functioning normal. Resiliency can also be a responder's ability to find a new normal. This presentation will focus on how responders and agencies can incorporate resiliency in a sustainable way. The Texas Disaster Medical System Responder Safety and Health Workgroup has focused on preparing responders in each of these phases by developing guidance in various phases of a responder's involvement in a disaster. This session will offer planning considerations, guidance for responders, and how agencies can support their responders to develop lasting resilience.

SAFETY 10 -11:45 A.M. HOW DOES AN EMERGENCY SERVICE ORGANIZATION (ESO) SELECT AND TRAIN THE EMERGENCY VEHICLE DRIVER?

David Bradley, VFIS

How does an Emergency Service Organization (ESO) select and train the emergency vehicle operator? Is it "by chance, "who you know", or through a "comprehensive selection process". This seminar addresses the plan emergency

service leadership should have for driver eligibility and selection, motor vehicle record evaluation, initial and ongoing driver education and training, and driver proficiency. Join Dave as he provides insight, suggestions, guidance and "best practices" for assuring you have "the right person in the left seat!"

SAFETY - 1 - 4:45 P.M. SAFE PRACTICES FOR TRAFFIC INCIDENT RESPONDERS

David Rosier - Regional Training Manager - Region 2 - TEEX, Robert Averitt - TEEX

On-scene responders are extremely important at any traffic incident. This course stresses how to address two simultaneous objectives specific to traffic collisions: safe procedures used to clear a crash scene and maximizing roadway space available for continued traffic movement. Participants with responsibility for traffic control at crash scenes are often required to operate in a very hazardous environment. During these events, both responders and motorists are at risk of being seriously injured in a secondary crash. Participants will learn the importance of "quick clearance," one of the most effective actions to be taken. Participants are also provided important information related to effective Traffic Incident Management (TIM).

FIRE DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT 8 - 9:45 A.M.

UP AND COMING OFFICER FIRST TIME OFFICER

Brian Scheffer - Assistant Fire Chief, Brenham Fire Department

Too many organizations are still using the "swim or sink" method of management training. All who move into supervisory positions have to figure it out on their own. This method assumes that everyone intuitively knows how to manage. Too many people accept a management promotion because they feel that they will be dead-ended if they reject the promotion. Many rookie managers feel like imposters until they grow into their jobs, but if you are scaling that learning curve, help has arrived.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT 10 - 11:45 A.M.

UP AND COMING OFFICER CULTURE OF OUR ORGANIZATION

Roy Mercer - Director of Training, Education, and Safety, VFIS of Texas

Learning that our organization is nothing more than a common place of employment where individuals form together to accomplish objectives and/or

missions that develop our organization's culture. Identifying how different people have different strengths and weaknesses that form the culture of the organization. How cultures and objectives or missions work towards these common goals.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT 1 - 2:45 P.M. UP AND COMING OFFICER

FIRE DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT 3 - 4:45 P.M. UP AND COMING OFFICER

**GENERAL 8 - 9:45 A.M.
NEW FIREFIGHTING TECHNOLOGY:
ENCAPSULATOR AGENTS**
Michael Greiner - President, Hazard Control Technologies, Inc.
Encapsulator Agents are the next generation in firefighting with faster knockdowns and permanent burn back resistance. Encapsulator Agents work on three elements of the fire tetrahedron: cooling, fuel encapsulation and interruption of the free radical chain reaction. The combination of these actions has an amazing effect on Class A, B, C and D fires.

- How Encapsulator Agents work
- Encapsulator Agent capabilities

**GENERAL 10 - 11:45 A.M.
CARBON DIOXIDE MONITORING -The science of the gas and why changing regulations are now requiring constant monitoring**
Josh Pringle - VP of Business Development, CO2Meter, Inc.
CO2 is a silent killer and can render an adult unconscious within seconds. Recent injuries and deaths speak to the gases deadly nature, as well as to the lack of uniform regulations governing its storage or production. A combination of a highly lethal gas and the lack of clear oversight breeds an increased incident rate. The session will discuss the science of CO2: what is it, why does it act the way it does, and how do I know it's present? Participants will also learn the necessities from measuring the gas, the options in monitoring, and how businesses can best detect and monitor for gas in their processes. The session will also discuss the applicable codes (NFPA, IFC and NBIC), the need for uniformity, and how these codes affect first responders and the community.

**GENERAL 1 - 2:45 P.M.
RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLERS**
RUSTY KATTNER - Fire Marshal, Village Fire Department

Discussion of the differences between NFPA 13 and 13D systems, description of the installation, multipurpose versus stand alone, discussion of benefits, what should our message be, side by side demonstration.

GENERAL 3 - 4:45 P.M. AN INTRODUCTION TO BASIC HAZMAT CONCEPTS

Chrissy Rogalski - Lieutenant, Ellis County Fire Corp.
An introduction to basic hazmat concepts including identification of hazardous materials, regulations, labeling systems and reference tools that can be used by first responders. Includes information on latest safety data changes and adoption of GHS (Global Harmonization system).
Objectives covered: SFFMA 18-I.01, I.03A, I.06 - I.13

RESOURCES 8 - 9:45 A.M. TCFP - Agency Overview Tim Rutland, Executive Director, TCFP

**RESOURCES 10 - 11:45 A.M.
TEEX - ESTI REGIONAL TRAINING MANAGERS - EXTENSION PROGRAM OVERVIEW**
Harvie Cheshire - Training Director, TEEX-ESTI Annual Schools/ Extension
General information and overview of TEEX-ESTI's Regional Extension Program. Regional Manager assignments and contact information. TEEX-ESTI's direction to educate, certify and support the SFFMA and the fire service of Texas.

**RESOURCES 1 - 2:45 P.M.
TDEM/DSHS/COG/NVFC
Local agency representatives**
Agency representatives will provide an overview of their agency and participants will have a chance to ask questions.

**RESOURCES 3 - 4:45 P.M.
HOW TO DEVELOP A TYPE III REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM**
Shawn Snider - Task Force Leader, Fire Chief - Edinburg FD, Members of Texas Task Force 1 Type III Team
This session will cover the process of how the Rio Grande Valley developed a Type III Team. The fire service of the Valley decided to provide for themselves through regional projects, regional cooperation, regional funding, and the political fortitude to get recognized by Texas Task Force 1.

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The SFFMA along with the sponsorship of Texas Mutual Insurance Company and VFIS of Texas gave us an amazing presentation and backed it with great fellowship, lodging and meals.

The first weekend of the course involved courses in fire department liabilities, writing and developing policies and procedures, recruitment and retention and implementing change in a department. The next three sessions look just as promising as the course progresses.

The information presented by the instructors was amazing and I found areas of our department that I felt were strong, but needed some readjusting, and yet other areas I found confirmation that we were doing things appropriately. This first class was very informative with a lot of new contacts made and networking capabilities offered.



2016 Fire Chief Development Program participants

This course has been much needed and is a definite must for any volunteer, combination or full paid department's fire chiefs to keep up with the changes in our field of work. The information given is invaluable and allows for some of those unanswered questions to be answered. I would urge every chief that, when the next course is offered, to jump at the chance and take that next step forward for your department.

Until next time, drive on and be safe.

Rick Stevens is a 16 year veteran of the fire service and has served as a Paramedic. He served 8 years as a combat medic in the US Army Reserves and has been serving as the fire chief of Punkin-Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department since 2013. He has earned a Bachelor's Degree in Healthcare Management for Argosy University and is pursuing his Associates Degree as a Registered Nurse.

The Least Expensive New Cars to Insure

Last year was a banner year for U.S. automobile sales. Some 17.5 million of us bought a new car in 2015.

If you are in the market for a new vehicle, don't forget to factor in the cost of insurance when you are researching what to buy. The excitement of that new vehicle can quickly fade when you find out the cost to insure it.

Insure.com did some number crunching to determine which new cars will save you money on auto insurance premiums. They checked rates for over 1,500, 2015 vehicles and found the least expensive to insure was the Jeep Wrangler Sport 4WD, with an annual cost of \$1,134. The Jeep Patriot 2WD was second at \$1,136. Rounding out the top five were the Honda CR-V LX 4WD, Dodge Grand Caravan SE Plus and the Honda Odyssey LX, all under \$1,200 per year.

Now keep in mind, the actual average per state premiums varied widely, with the driver of the Jeep Wrangler paying as little as \$694 a year in Maine or as much as \$2,012 in Hawaii.

The factors that determine the cost to insure a vehicle are a combination of its price, horsepower, and claims history. From an insurance perspective, the better value vehicles were those that retail for less, cost much less to repair and are less likely to be stolen or involved in a crash. It's no surprise that the most expensive vehicles to insure typically sell for more than \$100,000, reach speeds of 200 miles per hour and cost much more to repair.

No matter what new vehicle you choose, there are ways you can lower the insurance costs:

1. Clean up your credit. Many insurance companies look at your credit score; the better your credit the better rate you are likely to receive.

2. Increase your deductibles. The savings will add up, especially if you are incident free for a number of years. Just make sure you have an emergency fund to cover that higher deductible.

3. Check for good driver/good student discounts. Speaking of incident free, when's the last time you had an accident or a moving violation? Most insurance companies will give you a good driver discount, but make sure you tell them. The same goes for students with good grades.

4. Cut your driving. Ride a bike, take mass transit or move closer to where you work. How many miles you drive each year can affect your auto insurance rates; the less you drive, the greater the possible discount.

5. Get a policy review. Has your commute changed? Did you install a security device? Did you get married? All of these can lower the rate you pay for insurance. Talking with your insurance advisor at least once a year is the best way to make sure you get the discounts you're entitled to.

6. Compare your current insurance to California Casualty. We are a 100 year old, policyholder owned company that provides Auto & Home Insurance to the SFFMA with exclusive benefits not available to the general public.

This means:

- Deductibles waived or reduced for vandalism or accidents that occur

- when your vehicle is parked at work
- \$500 coverage for personal property (including uniforms and turnout gear) that is damaged or lost in a collision, fire or taken from your car
- Rates guaranteed for a full year (not six months)
- Free identity theft protection comes with each policy
- Multiple payment options including EZ Pay and holiday or summer skips
- Superior customer service – 99 percent with a claims satisfaction rating of 96 percent, (source: <https://www.calcas.com/customer-feedback>)

Here's another benefit from California Casualty: the Work Hard/Play Hard "All In" DeWALT Sweepstakes. One lucky first responder will win \$10,000 in tools – everything from a generator, compressor, power saws, drills, wrenches and accessories – so many that you will never have to borrow one again. Enter today at <http://go.calcas.com/Dewalt>. The winner will be announced in September.

If you're in the market for a new car, truck or SUV, contact a California Casualty advisor today. You might be surprised at the savings and all the benefits you qualify for at 1.800.800.9410 or visit www.calcas.com/SFFMA.

This article is furnished by California Casualty, providing auto and home insurance to firefighters for 20 years. Get a quote at 1.800.800.9410 or www.calcas.com/SFFMA.



TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING



EXTENSION SERVICE

87th Annual Municipal School

July 24 - 29, 2016 - College Station, TX

SPECIAL NOTICE on Municipal School - Fire Fighting Phase Program

Beginning in 2015, TEEX changed its curriculum to align with the SFFMA and TCFP Certification Processes.

PLEASE NOTE: The Fire Fighting Phase Courses are now taught to the NFPA 1001 Standard. Whether you are seeking certification or simply desire training in accordance to NFPA 1001 FF I and FF II, the process is the same.

The end of phase quiz is intended to measure the participant's comprehension of the related subject matter.

Your attendance and participation in the phase program will result in a "Certificate of Completion."

For those seeking certification, you will need to complete all required training and submit application to the SFFMA in order to take your certification exam.

For more information or to register, visit www.teex.org/annualschools.



Greetings:
I would like to thank the Rio Grande Valley District for a very hospitable time during the Planning Conference in January. We got to try out a few

restaurants and they were all very good, and the little bit of shopping that we were able to do was fun as well. McAllen and the surrounding area promises to have something for everyone.

The convention will be here before we know it and it promises to be a wonderful time. SFFMA President Paul Hamilton and I are working closely with R.C. Flores, the Rio Grande Valley District and all of their helpful volunteers to prepare for the Presidential Reception /Taste of the Valley.

I will have my suite open as much as possible during the convention and hope everyone will come by to visit and have some snacks and something to drink. I will also be hosting a hospitality night in my suite on Monday night of convention.

I can't say enough about my board and everyone that has helped me through the years of my being on the board. I have made some very good and lifelong friends along the way, and I value each and every one of you and everything everyone has done for me. I also want to thank the SFFMA, all firemen around the state of Texas, and the TFA membership for believing in me and TFA for giving me this great opportunity to serve this wonderful organization. I want to thank my husband, Morris, and my boys, Murray and Blake, for being at my side and supporting me during this time of being on the board. I have to also thank my Presidential Aide, Cindy Kennon, her husband Mike and their daughters, Karlie and Macey for always supporting me as well. I would also like to thank our home fire department, West Carlisle for all the support they have provided me.

If there is anything that you would like to discuss or if there is anything TFA can help you with, please contact me. My information is on the SFFMA website under the TFA heading.

Sincerely,

Jerri Locknane
TFA President



Membership dues

TFA Dues are now being accepted;
Individuals are \$20,
Auxiliaries and Districts are \$30.

Dues can be sent to TFA Treasurer - Kendra Charbula
PO Box 595, Louise, TX 77455

or can be paid at the TFA Booth on Saturday of convention.



La Fiesta Mexicana

Please join us for a luncheon honoring
TFA Past Presidents

TUESDAY

June 28, 2016 at 11 a.m.

Casa del Taco, 1800 US 83 Business, Mission, TX

Menu

Beef Fajitas, Beef Enchiladas,
Chalupas, Pork Loin in Tomatillo
Sauce, Chile Poblano and Corn in
Cheese and Cream Sauce,
Refried Beans, Mexican Rice, Chips,
Salsa, Pico de Gallo, Corn and Flour
Tortilla, Tea or Soft Drink

Dessert

Buñuelos and Choco flan

Make checks payable to: TFA
Mail to: Anggie Sumrall
16207 Bluebird St. Santa Fe,
TX 77517

Cost: \$22.00

Deadline for presale tickets: May 20, 2016

Tickets can be picked up at TFA Booth on Saturday,
June 25 at the McAllen Convention Center.

Dress Mexican Style

Shoulder

To

Shoulder

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Watch the Shoulder to Shoulder video series at
shoulder2shoulder.tv



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10-15
JULY 2016

54TH ANNUAL **INDUSTRIAL** FIRE SCHOOL

17-22
JULY 2016

87TH ANNUAL **MUNICIPAL** FIRE SCHOOL

24-29
JULY 2016

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